

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
Data Workgroup
Approved February 9, 2015

Monday, December 8, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Conference call)

Introductions

Ben Arbise	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Peter Mulhall (chair)	Center for Prevention Research and Development
Tom Szpyrka	Illinois Department of Public Health
Steve Moore	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Minutes from October 20, 2014

Mr. Moore motioned for the approval of the minutes with the possible correction with a second from Dr. Mulhall, all in favor, motion carried.

Announcements

Ms. Martin has been following up with the data managers related to the report from several years ago that she is revisiting for updates. During that follow-up, she spoke with Mr. Szpyrka, who joined today's meeting to tell us more about new health dissemination initiatives in place.

Dr. Mulhall posed the following questions for future thought:

- How do we interact and link with all state/community agencies that have concerns about suicide?
- How do we build consensus to figure out how to get this issue back on the table for funding?

Mr. Szpyrka reported the data dissemination initiative was started with the initial goal to create a self-serve data system. About a year or so ago, the governor released an open data initiative, which encompasses data.illinois.gov. The thought is anything that is FOIA-ble should be disseminated.

Mr., Szpyrka continued there was a database survey of all databases in the Department, and following there is supposed to be a "main page" coming out for the department. His understanding is that this is already built and steps away from release.

Standards of data quality and vocabulary continues to be an issue. The project is under a timeline and should be drafted within a couple of weeks. Aggregated data is allowed for dissemination for this project, which means there will likely be very few databases that won't have some sort of data on data.illinois.gov.

Ms. Martin commented having a specific database for suicide-related data would likely prove to be very convenient.

Mr. Szpyrka added there is no additional cost for publishing the data other than getting the data in the correct format for usage. The data would need to meet HIPAA requirements and in raw .csv form. The current suicide map data, for example, is already analyzed from raw data.

Mr. Szpyrka added there is an expectation of continuity for data added to the site, so there would be an expectation for the project to be repeated in the future.

Mr. Szpryka said the data could become topic-sensitive; for example, when people click suicide prevention they are directed to the hospital discharge, etc. related data that applies.

Mr. Szpryka would be more than willing to work with the workgroup, with the understanding continuity is an important part of the project and an expectation of core metadata requirements.

In the interim, Mr. Szpryka can provide a list of health departments that have selected suicide as a priority.

Discuss any newly released suicide-related data

No updates

Identify other workgroup activities

Discussion around why Illinois has a lower suicide rate than other states in the region

Ms. Martin reached out to the Injury Control Research Center for Suicide for possible cause of this. She shared the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS), along with the other states in the region, may be able to look at this as a regional project.

Mr. Arbise added there can be assumptions made with general background knowledge, but not necessarily definitive statements.

Update on progress to address recommendations from the Youth Suicide Prevention Consensus Building Meeting

Gather data/information (data matrix)

Ms. Martin shared a list of the potential programs that can use the data matrix with the committee. In earlier correspondence, Ms. Levin suggested adding American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition, United Way, among several other organizations. Also, she assisted in correcting titles that were not in existence anymore or are currently known by different titles.

Mr. Moore suggested adding additional law enforcement stakeholders.

New business

Ms. Martin mentioned the current evaluation results for online training, and how these results are giving insight as to how schools are responding to suicide prevention. She believes this data would be useful for those wanting to do suicide prevention in the school setting. She will follow-up with Dr. Mulhall on this discussion.